

29 May 52 the Charge d'Affaires, Aleksei B. Alekseyev & wife invited a group of about 100 guests to a concert primarily of Russian music held in the Legation. In attendance were Uruguayan officials, Edward L. RODDAN (U.S. Ambassador), also Italian, Norwegian, Swedish, Netherlands, Argentine, Czechoslovak officials in addition to unidentified persons who appeared to be local residents. The entire staff of the Legation was in evidence, some 10-12 officers posted at various points to receive guests, bar guests from ascending the stairway, etc. The old Russian habit of segregating guests into 1st and 2nd class groups was in evidence. Following the concert, diplomatic guests were shown into a small room plentifully provided with caviar, vodka, etc., while the hoi polloi pushed and shoved together into an overcrowded dining room.

This is the first social gathering the Russians have had since their annual reception last November and it may foreshadow a more active attempt to break thru the social boycott to which they are customarily subjected here.

Extract from Air pouch (FS dispatch 1104 from Montevideo, 5 Jun 52, Edward L. Roddan.